



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **FL-0**

April 10, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve Public Works to acquire maintenance equipment at a total cost of \$350,000 budgeted in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2006-07 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This request is to comply with the County Equipment Policy (Policy) that your Board approved on October 16, 2001. This Policy requires Board approval prior to County departments purchasing/financing equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater. Therefore, we are requesting approval to purchase a bucket auger drill-rig truck budgeted in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2006-07 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation.

This purchase is a replacement for an existing "CAL-WELD" bucket auger drill-rig truck used to assist our Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division (GMED) to take soil samples for sites suspected of soil contaminants, and it is used for drilling landslides/road failures for down-hole logging procedures. The existing drill rig was used extensively for repair work on the landslides caused by the 2005 storms.

GMED is dependent on this drill rig to meet the demands of recent water quality testing requirements and environmental regulations. The obsolescence and inability of this unit to remain operational has made it difficult for GMED to meet these demands in a timely manner. The existing 20-year-old drill-rig truck has logged approximately 4,046 hours of operation, has seen declining usage due to shop downtime; approximately 57 days in Fiscal Year 2004-05, 40 days in Fiscal Year 2005-06, and has become unreliable. The replacement criterion is 7,500 hours or 12 years. Public Works' Fleet Management Group strongly recommends the replacement of this unit based on the transmission, clutch, and hydraulic systems being outdated.

The cost to replace the drill-rig truck is \$350,000, and the expected life of a new drill-rig truck is 7,500 hours or 12 years. A comparable unit is not available for rent. It is recommended that we replace this unit with a new drill-rig truck because of the following reasons:

- It will be more reliable than the existing drill-rig truck for daily maintenance activities.
- It will have less downtime for repair and maintenance.
- It will be available at anytime of the day.
- Rental equipment is not available.
- It will fully comply with current standards and regulations.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence, Organizational Effectiveness, and Fiscal Responsibility. This action will enable Public Works to continue to provide County residents with enhanced responsive, efficient, and effective flood control facilities maintenance.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no impact to net County cost as a result of this purchase. The cost for this acquisition is \$350,000 and is included in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2006-07 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On October 16, 2001, your Board adopted a Policy whereby departments will obtain Board approval to purchase or finance equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisitions to purchasing.

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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The approval of this request will enable Public Works to continue to perform its routine flood maintenance activities in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

Your approval will allow Public Works to replace outdated maintenance equipment and continue to provide flood control services to County residents.

CONCLUSION

One adopted copy of this letter is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works

MB:rf

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel

bc: Budget/Fund Management (Bloomstone)
Flood Maintenance (Blanco)
Fleet Management (Manning)
Geotechnical and Materials Engineering (Goodman)